

IC-75-1473

15 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/DCI/IC

SUBJECT : Special Warnings and Notices to Mariners

1. I have confirmed that the agency responsible for issuing subject warnings and notices is the Hydrographic Center of the Defense Mapping Agency. The individual who authorizes the broadcasts is Mr. O. L. ("Rocky") Martin, Chief of the Navigation Information Branch, at the Hydro Center at Suitland, Md. His phone number is 763-1335.

2. I had a lengthy and informative discussion with Mr. Martin this morning. He advised that in matters involving purely navigational hazards (newly discovered rocks and shoals, etc.) he unilaterally releases the notices to mariners (NOTM's). In any matter in which political or military issues are evident, he must first coordinate the NOTM with the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations and with the Department of State. His points of contact are:

Deputy Chief of Naval Operations
(Plans, Policy and Operations)
Political Military Division-Ocean
Affairs Branch (OP-616)
Lcdr Dennis McCoy (697-8766)

Department of State
Bureau of Economic Affairs
Office of Maritime Affairs
Mr. John Steinmetz
Mr. Sam Smith (632-2655)

3. Mr. Martin's initial awareness of the MAYAGUEZ incident occurred after the news announcement of its capture. (In fact, he received a personal call from a friend who had heard of it on the radio). Martin then contacted the State and CNO officials and suggested the need for a Special warning to mariners. He also drafted a proposed text.

It took the better part of a day, with several rewrites, to finally obtain coordination. He then released the warning.

4. In response to my queries, Martin made the following points:

a. He has no contact with any U.S. intelligence entity.


b. His office has no secure communications.

c. His office does not have equipment or facilities to monitor news service or FBIS reports.

Martin emphasized that for the past several years, he personally has been trying to improve procedures to prevent just such occurrences as the MAYAGUEZ. He stated that numerous attempts and some correspondence had been initiated with the Naval Intelligence Command, but for various reasons had come to no avail. He believes "classification" has been the core of the problem.

5. I have also spoken to Mr. Steinmetz of State and LCDR McCoy of Navy. They substantiate Mr. Martin's comments and also reveal some internal problems within their respective organizations. Steinmetz tells that the area/desk officers in State were aware of the incidents with the South Korean and Panamanian ships but he was never advised. LCDR McCoy, while not as specific, alluded to less than ideal support from Navy Intelligence.

6. All of the individuals I spoke to appeared to be knowledgeable and dedicated people who recognize the imperfections and faults in the system and have tried but failed to change them. All were very enthusiastic at my suggestion that we perhaps might be able to get together to discuss the situation and begin to work something out. Martin and Steinmetz indicated they and their bosses would be willing and eager to come. I told them that I would be in touch.

LCDR/USN /PRD/TB

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Remarks:			
<p>Enclosed are my findings regarding the procedures for issuing Notices to Mariners. In view of the time constraints I have passed this to you directly and given information copies to the people in the chain of command.</p> <p><i>v/r</i></p>			
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